

PRE

Princes must, by a vigorous exercise of that law, make it every man's interest and honour to cultivate religion and virtue, by rendering vice a disgrace, and the certain ruin to *pre-ferment* or pretensions. *Swift.*

2. A place of honour or profit.

All *preferments* should be placed upon fit men. *L'Estrange.*

3. Preference; act of preferring. Not in use.

All which declare a natural *preference* of the one unto the motion before the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFERRER. [from *prefer*.] One who prefers.

TO PREFIGURATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figura*, Lat.] To shew by an antecedent representation.

PREFIGURATION. *n. f.* [from *præfigurate*.] Antecedent representation.

The same providence that hath wrought the one, will work the other; the former being pledges, as well as *præfigurations* of the latter. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

The variety of prophecies and *præfigurations* had their punctual accomplishment in the author of this institution. *Norris.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figura*, Lat.] To exhibit by antecedent representation.

What the Old Testament hath, the very same the New containeth; but that which lieth there, as under a shadow, is here brought forth into the open sun; things there *præfigured*, are here performed. *Hooker.*

Such piety, so chaste use of God's day,

That what we turn to feast, the turn'd to pray,

And did *præfigure* here in devout taste,

The rest of her high sabbath, which shall last. *Donne.*

If shame superadded to loss, and both met together, as the sinners portion here, perfectly *præfiguring* the two saddest ingredients in hell, deprivation of the blissful vision, and confusion of face, cannot prove efficacious to the mortifying of vice, the church doth give over the patient. *Hammond.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figura*, Lat.] To limit beforehand.

He, in his immoderate desires, *præfigured* unto himself three years, which the great monarchs of Rome could not perform in so many hundreds. *Knolles's Hist. of the Turks.*

TO PREFIX. *v. a.* [*præfixo*, Lat.]

1. To appoint beforehand.

At the *præfix'd* hour of her awaking,

Came I to take her from her kindred's vault. *Shakespeare.*

A time *præfix*, and think of me at last!

Its inundation constantly increaseth the seventh day of June; wherein a larger form of speech were safer, than that which punctually *præfixeth* a constant day. *Brown.*

Booth's forward valour only serv'd to show,

He durst that duty pay we all did owe:

Th' attempt was fair; but heav'n's *præfix'd* hour

Not come. *Dryden.*

2. To settle; to establish.

Because I would *præfix* some certain boundary between them, the old statutes end with king Edward II. the new or later statutes begin with king Edward III. *Hale's Law of England.*

These boundaries of species are as men, and not as nature makes them, if there are in nature any such *præfix'd* bounds. *Locke.*

3. To put before another thing; as, he *præfix'd* an advertisement to his book.

PREFIX. *n. f.* [*præfixum*, Lat.] Some particle put before a word, to vary its signification.

In the Hebrew language the noun has its *præfixa* and affixa, the former to signify some few relations, and the latter to denote the pronouns possessive and relative. *Clarke.*

It is a *præfix* of augmentation to many words in that language. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFIXION. *n. f.* [*præfixion*, Fr. from *præfix*.] The act of prefixing. *Diels.*

TO PREFORM. *v. a.* [*præ* and *form*.] To form beforehand.

If you consider the true cause,

Why all these things change, from their ordinance,

Their natures and *præform'd* faculties,

To monstrous quality; why you shall find,

That heav'n made them instruments of fear

Unto some monstrous state. *Shakespeare. Julius Cæsar.*

PREGNANCY. *n. f.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. The state of being with young.

The breast is encompassed with ribs, and the belly left free, for respiration; and in females, for that extraordinary extension in the time of their *pregnancy*. *Ray on the Creation.*

2. Fertility; fruitfulness; inventive power; acuteness.

Pregnancy is made a tapster, and hath his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

This writer, out of the *pregnancy* of his invention, hath found out an old way of insinuating the grossest reflections under the appearance of admonitions. *Swift's Miscel.*

PREGNANT. *adj.* [*pregnant*, Fr. *prægnans*, Lat.]

1. Teeming; breeding.

Thou

Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss,

And mad'st it *pregnant*. *Milton.*

His town, as fame reports, was built of old

By Danae, *pregnant* with almighty gold. *Dryden.*

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Through either ocean, foolish man!

That *pregnant* word sent forth again,

Might to a world extend each atom there,

For every drop call forth a sea, a heav'n for ev'ry star. *Pri.*

2. Fruitful; fertile; impregnating.

All these in their *pregnant* causes mixt:

Call the floods from high, to rush amain *Milton.*

With *pregnant* streams, to swell the teeming grain. *Dryden.*

3. Full of consequence.

These knew not the just motives and *pregnant* grounds,

with which I thought myself furnished. *King Charles.*

An egregious and *pregnant* instance how far virtue surpasses ingenuity. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

O detectable, passive obedience! did I ever imagine I should become thy votary in so *pregnant* an instance. *Arb.*

4. Evident; plain; clear; full. An obsolete sense.

This granted, as it is a most *pregnant* and unforc'd position,

who stands so eminent in the degree of this fortune as Cassio? a knave very voluble. *Shakespeare. Othello.*

Were't not that we stand up against them all,

'Twere *pregnant*, they should square between themselves. *Shakespeare. Antony and Cleopatra.*

5. Easy to produce any thing.

A most poor man made tame to fortune's blows,

Who by the art of known and feeling sorrows,

Am *pregnant* to good pity. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

6. Free; kind. Obsolete.

My matter hath no voice, but to your own most *pregnant* and vouchsafed ear. *Shakespeare.*

PREGNANTLY. *adv.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. Fruitfully.

A thousand moral paintings I can shew,

That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune

More *pregnantly* than words. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*

The dignity of this office among the Jews is so *pregnantly* set forth in holy writ, that it is unquestionable; kings and priests are mentioned together. *South's Sermon.*

PREGUSTATION. *n. f.* [*præ* and *gusto*, Lat.] The act of tasting before another.

TO PREJUDGE. *v. a.* [*præjudge*, Fr. *præ* and *judicio*, Lat.] To determine any question beforehand; generally to condemn beforehand.

If he stood upon his own title of the house of Lancaster, he knew it was condemn'd in parliament, and *prejudged* in the common opinion of the realm, and that it tended to the dishonour of the line of York. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

The child was strong and able, though born in the eighth month, which the physicians do *prejudge*. *Bacon.*

The committee of council hath *prejudged* the whole case, by calling the united sense of both houses of parliament an universal clamour. *Swift.*

Some action ought to be entered, lest a greater cause should be injured and *prejudged* thereby. *Ayliffe.*

TO PREJUDICATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *judicio*, Lat.] To determine beforehand to disadvantage.

Our dearest friend

Prejudicates the business, and would seem

To have us make denial. *Shakespeare.*

Are you, in favour of his person, bent

Thus to *prejudicate* the innocent? *Sandys.*

PREJUDICATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Formed by prejudice; formed before examination.

This rule of casting away all our former *prejudicate* opinions, is not proposed to any of us to be practised at once as subjects or christians, but merely as philosophers. *Watts.*

2. Prejudiced; prepossessed.

Their works will be embraced by most that understand them, and their reasons enforce belief from *prejudicate* readers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREJUDICATION. *n. f.* [from *prejudicate*.] The act of judging beforehand.

PREJUDICE. *n. f.* [*prejudice*, Fr. *præjudicium*, Lat.]

1. Prepossession; judgment formed beforehand without examination. It is used for prepossession in favour of any thing or against it. It is sometimes used with to before that which the *prejudice* is against, but not properly.

The king himself frequently considered more the person who spoke, as he was in his *prejudice*, than the counsel itself that was given. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

My comfort is, that their manifest *prejudice* to my cause will render their judgment of less authority. *Dryden.*

There is an unaccountable *prejudice* to projectors of all kinds, for which reason, when I talk of practising to fly, silly people think me an owl for my pains. *Addison.*

2. Mischief; detriment; hurt; injury. This sense is only accidental or consequential; a *bad thing* being called a *prejudice*, only because *prejudice* is commonly a *bad thing*, and is not derived from the original or etymology of the word: it were therefore better to use it less; perhaps *prejudice* ought never to be applied to any mischief, which does not imply some partiality or prepossession. In some of the following examples its impropriety will be discovered. *I have*

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I have not spoke one the least word,

That might be *prejudice* of her present state,

Or touch of her good person. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

England and France might, through their amity,

Breed him some *prejudice*; for from this league

Peep'd harms that menac'd him. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

Factions carried too high and too violently, is a sign of weakness in princes, and much to the *prejudice* of their authority and business. *Bacon.*

How plain this abuse is, and what *prejudice* it does to the understanding of the sacred scriptures. *Locke.*

A prince of this character will instruct us by his example, to fix the unsteadiness of our politics; or by his conduct hinder it from doing us any *prejudice*. *Addison.*

TO PREJUDICE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To prepossess with unexamined opinions; to fill with prejudices.

Half-pillars wanted their expected height,

And roofs imperfect *prejudic'd* the sight. *Prior.*

Suffer not any beloved study to *prejudice* your mind, so far as to despise all other learning. *Watts.*

No flames to captivate the mind he spreads,

Nor bribes your eyes to *prejudice* your heads. *Anonym.*

2. To obstruct or injure by prejudices previously raised.

Companies of learned men, be they never so great and reverend, are to yield unto reason; the weight whereof is no whit *prejudiced* by the simplicity of his person, which doth allege it. *Hooker, b. ii. f. 7.*

Neither must his example, done without the book, *prejudice* that which is well appointed in the book. *Whitefield.*

I am not to *prejudice* the cause of my fellow-poets, though I abandon my own defence. *Dryden.*

3. To injure; to hurt; to diminish; to impair; to be detrimental to. This sense, as in the noun, is often improperly extended to meanings that have no relation to the original sense; who can read with patience of an ingredient that *prejudices* a medicine?

The strength of that law is such, that no particular nation can lawfully *prejudice* the fame by any their several laws and ordinances, more than a man by his private resolutions, the law of the whole commonwealth wherein he liveth. *Hooker.*

The Danube rescu'd, and the empire sav'd,

Say, is the majesty of verse retriev'd?

And would it *prejudice* thy softer vein,

To sing the princes, Louis and Eugene? *Prior.*

To this is added a vinous bitter, warmer in the composition of its ingredients than the watry infusion; and, as gentian and lemon-peel make a bitter of so grateful a flavour, the only care required in this composition was to chuse such an addition as might not *prejudice* it. *London Dispensatory.*

PREJUDICIAL. *adj.* [*præjudicial*, Fr. from *prejudice*.]

1. Obstructive by means of opposite prepossessions.

2. Contrary; opposite.

What one syllable is there, in all this, *prejudicial* any way to that which we hold? *Hooker, b. ii. f. 5.*

3. Mischievous; hurtful; injurious; detrimental. This sense is improper. See **PREJUDICE**, noun and verb.

His going away the next morning with all his troops, was most *prejudicial* and most ruinous to the king's affairs. *Clarendon.*

One of the young ladies reads, while the others are at work; so that the learning of the family is not at all *prejudicial* to its manufactures. *Addison's Guardian.*

A state of great prosperity, as it exposes us to various temptations, so it is often *prejudicial* to us, in that it swells the mind with undue thoughts. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

PREJUDICIALNESS. *n. f.* [from *prejudicial*.] The state of being prejudicial; mischievousness.

PRELACY. *n. f.* [from *prælate*.]

1. The dignity or post of a prelate or ecclesiastick of the highest order.

Prelacies may be termed the greater benefices; as that of the pontificate, a patriarchship, an archbishoprick and bishoprick. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. Episcopacy; the order of bishops.

The presbyter, puff'd up with spiritual pride,

Shall on the necks of the lewd nobles ride,

His brethren damn, the civil power defy,

And parcel out republick *prelacy*. *Dryden.*

How many are there, that call themselves protestants, who put *prelacy* and popery together as terms convertible. *Swift.*

3. Bishops. Collectively.

Divers of the reverend *prelacy*, and other most judicious men, have especially bestowed their pains about the matter of jurisdiction. *Hooker's Dedication.*

PRELATE. *n. f.* [*prælat*, Fr. *prælatus*, Lat.] An ecclesiastick of the highest order and dignity.

It befemed not the person of so grave a *prelate*, to be either utterly without counsel, as the rest were, or in a common perplexity to shew himself alone secure. *Hooker.*

Hear him but reason in divinity,

And, all-admiring, with an inward wish

You would desire the king were made a *prelate*. *Shakespeare.*

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The archbishop of Vienna, a reverend *prelate*, said one day to king Lewis XI. of France; fir, your mortal enemy is dead, what time duke Charles of Burgundy was slain. *Bacon.*

Yet Munster's *prelate* ever be accurst,

In whom we seek the German faith in vain. *Dryden.*

PRELATICAL. *adj.* [from *prælate*.] Relating to prelate or prelacy. *Diels.*

PRELATION. *n. f.* [*prælatus*, Lat.] Preference; setting of one above the other.

In case the father left only daughters, they equally succeeded as in co-partnership, without any *prelation* or preference of the eldest daughter to a double portion. *Hale.*

PRELATURE. *n. f.* [*prælatura*, Lat. *prælature*, Fr.] The

PRELATURESHIP. *n. f.* [state or dignity of a prelate. *Diels.*

PRELECTION. *n. f.* [*prælectio*, Lat.] Reading; lecture; discourse.

He that is desirous to prosecute these airy flights of infinitude, let him resort to the *prælections* of Faber. *Hale.*

PRELIBATION. *n. f.* [from *prælibo*, Lat.] Taste beforehand; effusion previous to tasting.

The firm belief of this, in an innocent soul, is a high *prælibation* of those eternal joys. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

PRELIMINARY. *adj.* [*præliminaire*, Fr. *præ* *limine*, Lat.] Previous; introductory; proemial.

My master needed not the assistance of that *preliminary* poet to prove his claim; his own majestic mien discovers him to be the king. *Dryden.*

PRELIMINARY. *n. f.* Something previous; preparatory measures.

The third consists of the ceremonies of the oath on both sides, and the *preliminaries* to the combat. *Notes on liad.*

PRELUDE. *n. f.* [*prælude*, Fr. *præludeum*, Lat.]

1. Some short flight of music played before a full concert.

2. Something introductory; something that only shews what is to follow.

To his infant arms oppose

His father's rebels and his brother's foes;

Those were the *preludes* of his fate,

That form'd his manhood, to subdue

The hydra of the many-headed hiving crew. *Dryden.*

The last Georgick was a good *prelude* to the *Æneis*, and very well shewed what the poet could do in the description of what was really great. *Addison.*

One concession to a man is but a *prelude* to another. *Clarissa.*

TO PRELUDE. *v. a.* [*præluder*, Fr. *præludo*, Lat.] To serve as an introduction; to be previous to.

Either longer holding out their throats,